

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are presented for consideration.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. This response is timely in view of the accompanying Request for Extension of Time which extends the period for response to October 14, 2003.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature that the pieces of bonded fibrous materials comprise synthetic fibrous material. The amendment to claim 1 is supported in the specification at multiple locations, including, for example, on page 13, lines 11-13 and lines 21-23.

By way of the Office Action mailed June 13, 2003, claims 1-3, 7, 12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent Number 4,735,682 to Didwania, et al (hereinafter referred to as Didwania). This rejection is respectfully **traversed** to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims because Didwania does not teach each and every limitation of independent claim 1.

Didwania discloses a method of separating cellulosic fibers from latex bonded paper broke. The method includes the steps of shredding the latex bonded paper broke, pulping the broke in an aqueous alkaline solution, and deflaking the pulp to form cellulosic fibers with latex solids remaining attached thereto.

Presently amended claim 1 is directed to a method of recycling bonded fibrous materials comprising the steps of providing pieces of bonded fibrous materials comprising synthetic fibrous material, the pieces having sizes that are adapted for suspension in a liquid; suspending the discrete pieces of bonded fibrous materials in a liquid; applying mechanical work to the liquid suspension of discrete pieces to generate hydraulic pressure and mechanical shear stress conditions sufficient to hydraulically fragment the bonded fibrous materials into fibers and fiber-like components; and separating substantially individual fibers and fiber-like components from the liquid.

Didwania does not disclose that the method thereof includes the step of providing pieces of bonded fibrous materials comprising synthetic fibrous materials. Rather, it is particularly directed to the treatment of latex bonded cellulosic fibers. As such, Didwania cannot anticipate

the presently presented independent claim 1 or the claims depending therefrom. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection as applied to the presently amended claims be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1-9, 12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made and thus unpatentable over Didwania. This rejection is respectfully **traversed** to the extent that it may apply to the presently presented claims because the reference does not disclose each and every limitation thereof.

As discussed above, Didwania does not teach or suggest that the method thereof includes the step of providing pieces of bonded fibrous materials comprising synthetic fibrous materials. As such, Didwania cannot render obvious the presently presented independent claim 1 or the claims depending therefrom because it does not teach or suggest each and every limitation thereof. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection as applied to the presently amended claims be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in form for allowance.

Claims 1-27 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/012,768. An appropriate terminal disclaimer will be provided upon the allowance of claims in the present application. It is respectfully requested that the requirement for such terminal disclaimer be suspended until such time as allowable subject matter is determined.

Claims 1-27 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/012,766. An appropriate terminal disclaimer will be provided upon the allowance of claims in the present application. It is respectfully requested that the requirement for such terminal disclaimer be suspended until such time as allowable subject matter is determined.

Lastly, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the Information Disclosure Statement which is being filed contemporaneously herewith. The Examiner is requested to make of record receipt and review of the documents listed therein.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

Appl. No. 09/992,110
Amdt. dated October 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2003

The undersigned may be reached at: 770-587-8626.

Respectfully submitted,


PALACIO, ET AL.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Richard M. Shane, hereby certify that on October 13, 2003 this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: 

Richard M. Shane